

5th April, 1945.



B.S. 1945/3B.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

BUSINESS STATISTICS

-

MARCH, 1945.

C o n t e n t s .

PART I.      PRIMARY AND EXPORT INDUSTRIES.

Season - March rainfall negligible except on North Coast.

Wool - Conference in London on post-war marketing. Smaller Australian clip. Post-war training of wool textile workers. Arrivals and appraisements in Sydney.

Wheat - Crop preparation delayed.

Dairying Industry - Production declining. Inquiry into costing basis of milk zone prices.

General - Poultry feed supplies. Proposed purchase scheme for poultry.

Sugar. Good 1945 prospects. Production in 1944.

Meat. Shipments to U.K. in 1944.

PART II.    FINANCE AND TRADE.

General - Loan conversion in London. Post war defence policy.

N.S.W. State Accounts - February, 1945.

Retail Trade - January, 1945.

PART III.    INDUSTRY, TRANSPORT, ETC.

General. Re-establishment and Employment Bill.  
Captain Cook Dock officially opened.

Employment, N.S.W., January, 1945.

Building Industry - Private building permits Metropolis, Feb., 1945.  
New Houses, private and Govt., Febr., 1945.  
Govt. and Private Building, Feb., 1945.

Transport. General. Relaxation of rail transport restrictions.

Govt. Trams and 'Buses, January, 1945.

Motor Vehicles. Plans for post-war manufacture in Australia.

Motor Registrations, N.S.W. February, 1945.



## PART I. PRIMARY AND EXPORT INDUSTRIES.

SEASONAL CONDITIONS. Drought still persists over the greater part of the Riverina and the Western Division. Apart from useful falls on the North Coast in the first and last week rainfall during March was negligible. A few scattered showers in the dry areas over the past week-end will result in little betterment. Rain is now needed again along the Coast, especially in the Hunter Valley and the Metropolitan division, and in all inland areas.

WOOL. English, Australian, New Zealand and South African representatives are to meet in London on April 16, to discuss post-war problems of wool marketing, including methods of disposing of the war-time accumulation of wool under the British Government purchase scheme.

The Australian 1944-45 clip is expected to be about 3,300,000 bales, or 440,000 bales less than in 1943-44, and the weight of wool per bale will average about 8 lb. lighter this than last season.

Shearing in western districts of N.S.W. has been delayed by industrial stoppages, but some sheds are working and others are expected to resume shortly.

Plans for extensive post-war training of wool textile workers have been announced. In addition to a textile training college being built by the Victorian Government at Geelong at a cost of £57,000, others, each to cost £50,000 are to be built in Sydney and Melbourne and the three are each to be equipped with plant valued at £50,000.

This season to March 27, wool received in Sydney was 818,417 bales, compared with 967,316 bales in the corresponding period of 1943-44. To the same date the quantities appraised in Sydney were 844,209 and 956,166 bales, respectively.

WHEAT. Absence of rain is holding up the work of ploughing in southern and parts of the central sections of the wheat belt.

The Commonwealth Government has approved of the payment of an additional one shilling per bushel subsidy on wheat from Nos. 6 and 7 Pools (1942-43 and 1943-44 crops) used for stock feeding, making a total subsidy of about 1s. 6d. per bushel. (This brings the price for such wheat approximately to the price of wheat used for human consumption).

The Prime Minister refused representations of a deputation of wheat growers for a higher price (5s. 2d. a bushel) than the guaranteed price of 4s. 3d. a bushel at country sidings approved for the 1945-46 crop.

DAIRYING INDUSTRY. With a return of dry conditions in dairying districts other than on the Coast north of Nambucca, production tends to decline. In the Sydney and Newcastle milk zone consumers have supplies cut slightly, no milk is available to milk bars and supplies to cafes, etc. have been halved.

The Commonwealth Government has appointed Professor L. F. Giblin to report on the method used in the determination of costs upon which prices and subsidy to producers in the Milk Board's zone are based.

GENERAL. Poultry. Supplies of wheat for poultry are to be reduced by one third after this month. Poultry farmers are asked not to rear cockerels, except for breeding purposes, and the Government is preparing a poultry purchase scheme to utilise stock which must be culled on account of the scarcity of feed.

Sugar. Prospects for 1945 production in Australia are encouraging. Sugar produced in 1944 was 667,900 tons (including 26,800 tons in N.S.W.) compared with 523,550 tons in 1943.

Meat. Shipments of meat to the United Kingdom last year were 179,000 tons, or 2,000 tons above the allocation. It is doubted if the allocation of 177,000 tons for 1945 can be reached on account of drought losses and adverse seasonal conditions and it has been hinted officially that a further cut in the Australian civilian allocation may be unavoidable.



PART II. FINANCE AND TRADE.

GENERAL. Loan Conversion in London. The Commonwealth Government is redeeming £94.3 m. of five per cent. stocks in London, of which £29 m. represents Commonwealth and £65.3 m. State debt. Repayment of £34.3 m. is to be effected and the remaining £60 m. is offered for conversion to 1965-69 stock at par, carrying interest at the rate of  $3\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. per annum. The Commonwealth Bank will take up such amount of the new stock as may not be subscribed. The conversion operation will effect an annual saving to Australia in interest payments of £2.14 m.

Post-war Defence Policy, as indicated by the Prime Minister, rests upon co-operation with the United Kingdom and the United States; participation in system of collective security on world and regional bases; Empire co-operation, and local national defence.

N.S.W. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS. In February, 1945, receipts were £541,000 greater and expenditure £163,000 greater than in February, 1944.

Both revenue and expenditure are greater this financial year on account of the special arrangements for the redemption of £3.84 m. of Treasury bills (as noted at p. 4 of B.S. 1945/2A). In the eight months ended February the actual excess payments over receipts in Consolidated Revenue Fund was £7.98 m. in 1945 compared with £8.23 m. in 1943-44 (giving a net improvement of £0.25 m.). In results of business undertakings there was a regression of £0.17 m. with the excess of revenue over expenditure £6.09 m. this year compared with £6.26 m. in July-Feb., 1943-44. The overall result for the eight months was thus £30,000 less favourable this year than last year.

Railway expenditure declined £55,000 less than did revenue; for trams and 'buses the increase in revenue did not match that in expenditure and the excess of revenue was £35,000 smaller. There were regressions of £121,000 in the Road Transport and Traffic Fund and of £6,000 an account of Main Roads. Receipts and expenditure for Sydney Harbour were £76,000 and £29,000 respectively greater, so that the net results for the eight months was £47,000 better this year than in 1943-44.

NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS.

Eight months ended February.

| Accounts.                       | 1944.  | 1945.  | Increase (+)<br>or<br>Decrease (-) |
|---------------------------------|--------|--------|------------------------------------|
|                                 | £000   | £000   | £000                               |
| Revenue - Consolidated Fund     | 16,731 | 20,932 | (+) 4,201                          |
| ø Business Undertakings         | 28,515 | 26,626 | (-) 1,889                          |
| Main Roads                      | 1,601  | 1,769  | (+) 168                            |
| Total                           | 46,847 | 49,327 | (+) 2,480                          |
| Expenditure - Consolidated Fund | 24,957 | 28,908 | (+) 3,951                          |
| ø Business Undertakings         | 22,229 | 20,504 | (-) 1,725                          |
| Main Roads                      | 1,631  | 1,805  | (+) 174                            |
| Total                           | 48,817 | 51,217 | (+) 2,400                          |
| Excess of Expenditure           | 1,970  | 1,890  | (-) 80                             |

ø Railways, Trams and 'Buses, Road Transport and Traffic Fund, and Sydney Harbour.



RETAIL TRADE. In a group of large stores in Sydney the value of sales in January, 1945 was 20.1 per cent. greater than in Jan., 1944. This was one of the largest increases comparing a month with the same month of the preceding year yet recorded. Some part of the increase would be due to the incidence of two more trading days in Jan., 1945 than in Jan., 1944. In the three months, Nov. - Jan., the value of sales decreased 18.9 per cent. from 1941-42 to 1942-43 and again 1.1 per cent, from 1942-43 to 1943-44, but increased 11 per cent. from 1943-44 to 1944-45.

Stocks of these traders were 2.6 per cent. greater in value at the end of January, 1945 than a year earlier, and over the months Nov. - Jan., 1944-45 averaged 3.9 per cent. more than in the corresponding months of 1943-44, but were still appreciably below their level in 1941-42.

Departments showing significant improvement in stocks in January, 1945 compared with Jan., 1944 were Books, Stationery, etc., (32.4%), Fancy Goods (13.3%), Women's Wear (12.2%, including Girls' and Childrens' Wear 30%), Men's and Boys' Wear (6%, including Boys' Wear 14.4%), and Dress Piece Goods (21.8%). Stocks of Boots and Shoes were 31.5 per cent. and of Furniture (including Musical Instruments -25.2%) were 8.2 per cent. lower in value than in January, 1944.

#### RETAIL TRADE - EXPERIENCE OF LARGE SYDNEY STORES.

Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) from corresponding period previous year.

| Year            | August   | Sept.    | Oct.     | Nov.     | Dec.     | Jan.     | Nov.-Jan. |
|-----------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Value of Sales. |          |          |          |          |          |          |           |
| 1941-42         | (+) 16.3 | (+) 20.5 | (+) 18.1 | (+) 7.4  | (+) 4.8  | (+) 5.5  | (+) 5.8   |
| 1942-43         | (+) 5.7  | (-) 7.0  | (-) 17.3 | (-) 16.3 | (-) 23.1 | (-) 15.3 | (-) 18.9  |
| 1943-44         | (-) 20.7 | (-) 11.5 | (-) 9.9  | (-) 1.7  | (+) 5.4  | (-) 10.0 | (-) 1.1   |
| 1944-45         | (+) 11.8 | (+) 3.7  | (+) 5.6  | (+) 10.6 | (+) 6.1  | (+) 20.1 | (+) 11.0  |
| Value of Stock. |          |          |          |          |          |          |           |
| 1941-42         | (+) 9.5  | (+) 10.5 | (+) 13.9 | (+) 16.2 | (+) 21.5 | (+) 21.1 | (+) 19.4  |
| 1942-43         | (+) 13.4 | (+) 5.9  | (+) 2.1  | (-) 1.2  | (+) 1.5  | (+) 6.0  | (+) 1.9   |
| 1943-44         | (-) 11.4 | (-) 10.0 | (-) 9.1  | (-) 10.1 | (-) 12.8 | (-) 12.6 | (-) 11.8  |
| 1944-45         | (+) 4.2  | (+) 5.0  | (+) 4.3  | (+) 4.4  | (+) 4.6  | (+) 2.6  | (+) 3.9   |

A feature of recent trading has been the marked increases recorded in sales of dress piece goods, and latterly of furniture and hardware. Sales of women's wear have tended to improve rather more than of men's and boy's wear. For boots and shoes the value of turnover has barely attained the level of a year earlier, mainly, it is understood, because of the difficult supply situation. (The increase for boots and shoes shown for Jan., 1945, is no more than that attributable to the extra shopping days compared with Jan., 1944).

#### RETAIL TRADE - SALES BY LARGE SYDNEY STORES.

Percentage movement from same month in preceding year.

| Month     | Wearing Apparel.  |              |                    |               | Household Piece Goods | Furniture and Hardware |
|-----------|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
|           | Dress Piece Goods | Women's Wear | Men's & Boys' Wear | Boots & Shoes |                       |                        |
| 1943-Dec. | (+) 38.6          | (+) 26.9     | (+) 26.2           | (+) 19.7      | (-) 19.6              | (-) 24.5               |
| 1944-Aug. | (+) 29.1          | (+) 13.2     | (+) 14.2           | (+) 9.2       | (-) 6.5               | (+) 10.7               |
| Sept.     | (+) 23.8          | (+) 6.7      | (+) 7.5            | (-) 7.1       | (-) 8.5               | (-) 0.8                |
| Oct.      | (+) 29.3          | (+) 7.7      | (+) 6.2            | (-) 5.2       | (+) 3.4               | (+) 3.3                |
| Nov.      | (+) 35.7          | (+) 14.4     | (+) 6.5            | (-) 1.7       | (+) 0.6               | (+) 11.5               |
| Dec.      | (+) 15.8          | (+) 6.4      | (+) 10.4           | (-) 4.0       | (-) 3.2               | (+) 9.1                |
| 1945-Jan. | (+) 21.3          | (+) 24.4     | (+) 8.3            | (+) 8.8       | (+) 17.6              | (+) 27.2               |



### PART III. INDUSTRY, TRANSPORT ETC.

GENERAL. The Re-establishment and Employment Bill, now before Parliament, deals with the problem of return of servicemen and women (and other war workers) as part of the general problem of post-war reconstruction. Its measures rest on the principles of high and stable employment, high and rising standards of living, a comprehensive social security programme, intensive development of national resources, and adequate military and political provision for defence. The main features of the bill are:-

- Development of a Commonwealth Employment Service out of the present National Service Office organisation;
- Right of re-instatement of servicemen and women in former employment (a Re-instatement Committee and a Central Information office in Dept. of Repatriation to be established to facilitate re-instatement);
- Preference in employment for a period of seven years to members of the Forces who served six months or more in 1914-18 war or the 1939- war;
- Similar preference to civilians "with comparable service" (Central and Regional Preference Boards to be set up to register civilians entitled to preference);
- Moratorium provisions and special assistance for disabled personnel;
- A programme of vocational and industrial training on which the States are to co-operate;
- Loans for business purposes and re-establishment allowances for servicemen pending placement.

The Captain Cook Dock, built in Sydney Harbour, at a cost expected to approach £9 m., was opened officially by H.R.H. the Governor-General on 24th March, 1945. The dock is capable of receiving the largest vessel afloat.

Employment in N.S.W. The seasonal decrease in persons in employment between December, 1944 and January, 1945 (1,200) was much smaller than that usually experienced. At 779,700 the total number employed was 5,500 greater than in January, 1944, males having increased by 6,400 and females having decreased by 900 over the twelve months.

During Jan., 1945, there were 800 males added and 300 females lost in Government employment, while private employers engaged 1,300 more males and dispensed with 3,000 females. Over the twelve months ended Jan., 1945, the number in Government employ decreased by 2,300 (with loss of 2,700 females and a gain of 400 males) but 6,000 more men and 1,800 more women, a total 7,800, were added to private pay-rolls.

Government employment reached its highest and private employment its lowest war-time level in July, 1943. Since then there have been a decrease of 5,600 and a gain of 13,400 respectively.

#### NEW SOUTH WALES.

Estimated Salary and Wage Earners Employed (Excluding Rural Workers and Household Domestic).  
(Includes Civil Construction Corps in N.S.W.).

| Year and Month | MALES                                |                    |       | FEMALES                              |                    |       | TOTAL                              |                    |       |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|-------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|-------|------------------------------------|--------------------|-------|
|                | Govt. (C'th.State Local and Allied). | Private Employ-ers | Total | Govt. (C'th.State Local and Allied). | Private Employ-ers | Total | Govt. C'th.State Local and Allied) | Private Employ-ers | Total |
|                | '000                                 | '000               | '000  | '000                                 | '000               | '000  | '000                               | '000               | '000  |
| 1939-July      | 136.5                                | 393.4              | 529.9 | 19.4                                 | 148.6              | 168.0 | 155.9                              | 542.0              | 697.9 |
| 1941-Nov.      | 144.3                                | 411.1              | 555.4 | 23.0                                 | 201.5              | 224.5 | 167.3                              | 612.6              | 779.9 |
| Dec.           | 146.4                                | 410.1              | 556.5 | 23.4                                 | 203.9              | 227.3 | 169.8                              | 614.0              | 783.8 |
| 1943-Jan.      | 155.6                                | 375.1              | 530.7 | 36.4                                 | 206.2              | 242.6 | 192.0                              | 581.3              | 773.3 |
| Dec.           | 152.6                                | 369.2              | 521.8 | 46.4                                 | 210.0              | 256.4 | 199.0                              | 579.2              | 778.2 |
| 1944-Jan.      | 152.5                                | 369.6              | 522.1 | 46.6                                 | 205.5              | 252.1 | 199.1                              | 575.1              | 774.2 |
| Dec.           | 152.1                                | 374.3              | 526.4 | 44.2                                 | 210.3              | 254.5 | 196.3                              | 584.6              | 780.9 |
| 1945-Jan.      | 152.9                                | 375.6              | 528.5 | 43.9                                 | 207.3              | 251.2 | 196.8                              | 582.9              | 779.7 |



In industrial groups the major changes during January, 1945, were increases of 1,200 (all males) in Transport and Communication and of 400 (all males) in Building and Construction. There were decreases of 900 in Retail Trade and of 800 in Factories - the former a seasonal movement and the latter a continuation of recent trend. Other groups showing increases were mining and Quarrying and Professional and Personal Services (each of 300) and Commerce and Finance (other than Retail Trade) of 200).

Noteworthy was the gain of male employees in Factories (700) and in Retail Trade (1,000), during January. In the twelve months ended Jan., 1945, there was a loss of 4,200 men and of 5,600 women from factories, but since September last, males have increased by 100 while females decreased by 2,700.

### NEW SOUTH WALES.

#### ESTIMATED TOTAL EMPLOYMENT IN MAIN INDUSTRIAL GROUPS. Thousands.

| Year and Month | Factory (a) |      | Mining & Quarrying |    | Building & Construction (b) |    | Transport & Communication |      | Retail Trade |      | Other Commerce & Finance |      | Professional & Personal Services (c) |      |
|----------------|-------------|------|--------------------|----|-----------------------------|----|---------------------------|------|--------------|------|--------------------------|------|--------------------------------------|------|
|                | M.          | F.   | M.                 | F. | M.                          | F. | M.                        | F.   | M.           | F.   | M.                       | F.   | M.                                   | F.   |
| 939-July       | 158.8       | 59.3 |                    |    |                             |    | Not available.            |      |              |      |                          |      |                                      |      |
| 941-Nov.       | 210.5       | 80.7 | 25.8               | .2 | 50.5                        | .7 | 79.8                      | 8.4  | 41.5         | 42.9 | 44.6                     | 19.4 | 52.6                                 | 58.0 |
| Dec.           | 213.2       | 81.8 | 25.8               | .2 | 49.0                        | .7 | 81.8                      | 8.4  | 41.2         | 44.3 | 42.6                     | 19.2 | 52.3                                 | 58.2 |
| 943-Jan.       | 216.6       | 90.4 | 25.0               | .2 | 36.0                        | .7 | 80.9                      | 10.8 | 30.2         | 40.4 | 36.0                     | 21.2 | 44.4                                 | 60.1 |
| Dec.           | 220.0       | 96.4 | 24.7               | .2 | 28.8                        | .7 | 80.9                      | 13.4 | 29.7         | 40.1 | 33.5                     | 20.8 | 44.5                                 | 64.1 |
| 944-Jan.       | 219.9       | 94.4 | 24.6               | .2 | 28.1                        | .7 | 81.5                      | 13.5 | 28.4         | 37.5 | 34.1                     | 20.6 | 44.8                                 | 64.4 |
| Dec.           | 215.0       | 90.3 | 24.5               | .2 | 27.4                        | .7 | 74.4                      | 14.0 | 30.5         | 40.4 | 35.6                     | 20.7 | 46.4                                 | 67.4 |
| 945-Jan.       | 215.7       | 88.8 | 24.8               | .2 | 27.8                        | .7 | 85.6                      | 14.0 | 29.5         | 38.5 | 35.7                     | 20.7 | 46.8                                 | 67.3 |

(a) Revised. (b) Including A.W.C. projects. (c) Including Education, Health, Hotels, Restaurants, and Professional and Personal Services (except private domestics).

**BUILDING INDUSTRY.** Private building permits granted by local authorities in Sydney and suburbs in February, 1945 were valued at £191,376 compared with £145,037 the preceding month and £133,814 in February, 1944. Excepting only July, 1943 (£201,089) and December 1942 (£191,563) this was the highest value for any month since January, 1942, but in comparison with pre-war activity the revival in building construction is still very limited. Moreover, there is reason to believe that some permittees are unable to place contracts for the work as approved because of scarcity of labour and building materials.

**NEW HOUSES.** There were 88 new houses included in private permits granted in February, 1945, which is the greatest number for any month since January, 1942. These and alterations and additions also approved had an estimated value of £65,047, compared with a total value for houses (new and alterations etc.) of £12,317 in February, 1944. Other comparative particulars follow:-

#### NUMBER OF PRIVATE PERMITS FOR NEW HOUSES - SYDNEY AND SUBURBS.

| Financial Year | Half year ended |       | Year  | Month of - |       |      |      |      |      |      |
|----------------|-----------------|-------|-------|------------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|
|                | Dec.            | June  |       | Aug.       | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | Jan. | Feb. |
| 1939-40        | 2,846           | 2,916 | 5,762 | 644        | 355   | 482  | 430  | 298  | 358  | 459  |
| 1942-43        | 30              | 39    | 69    | 6          | 7     | 4    | 8    | 4    | 5    | 8    |
| 1943-44        | 44              | 99    | 143   | 11         | 6     | 6    | 6    | 7    | 9    | 13   |
| 1944-45        | 252             | ...   | ...   | 42         | 32    | 42   | 52   | 51   | 67   | 88   |



In February, 1945, there were only 5 new houses in the metropolis contracted for or authorised on Government account, making 35 in the two months of 1945 compared with a monthly average of 60 in the latter half of 1944.

Elsewhere in the State, houses contracted for or authorised on Government account in February, 1945, numbered 52, falling 34 short of the monthly average in July - Dec., 1944.

The Commonwealth Treasurer recently approved of new Co-operative Building Societies now forming functioning in the finance of members in the erection of new houses under permit granted by the War Organisation of Industry Division. An increasing number of such permits is being granted.

Government Building. Contracts accepted or work authorised in February, 1945, for erection of buildings in N.S.W. for Commonwealth and State Governments totalled £199,468 compared with £323,646 in January, 1945, and an average of £273,949 a month in July - Dec., 1944. Of the total £98,616 was for buildings in Sydney and suburbs.

Total Building. Particulars of private building, other than in the Metropolis, are available only quarterly. The total value of all Government building authorised in N.S.W. and of private permits granted in Sydney and suburbs in February, 1945, was £390,844, compared with £468,683 in January, 1945 and a monthly average of £429,147 in July - Dec., 1944. In Sydney and Suburbs, Government buildings represented 49.7 per cent. of the total in Jan - Feb., 1945 compared with 62.1 per cent. in Jan. - Feb., 1944 and 55.5 per cent. in Sept. Qr., 1944. As there were no Government housing projects included in Jan. - Feb., 1944 the movement toward greater use of available building resources of civilian purposes is somewhat greater than the percentage comparisons indicate.

VALUE OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE BUILDING IN N.S.W.  
(£ thousands)

| Period.        | Sydney and Suburbs |       |        | Balance of State |       |       | Total New South Wales. |       |        |
|----------------|--------------------|-------|--------|------------------|-------|-------|------------------------|-------|--------|
|                | Private            | Govt. | Total  | Private          | Govt. | Total | Private                | Govt. | Total  |
| Year 1940      | 11,718             | 894   | 12,612 | 4,487            | 2,672 | 7,159 | 16,205                 | 3,566 | 19,771 |
| 1943           | 1,361              | 3,109 | 4,470  | 508              | 1,211 | 1,719 | 1,869                  | 4,320 | 6,189  |
| 1944           | 1,603              | 1,757 | 3,360  | 867              | 1,093 | 1,960 | 2,470                  | 2,850 | 5,320  |
| Sept. Qr. 1944 | 436                | 542   | 978    | 257              | 386   | 643   | 693                    | 928   | 1,621  |
| Dec. Qr. 1944  | 495                | 432   | 927    | 258              | 283   | 541   | 753                    | 715   | 1,468  |
| 1944 Feb.      | 133                | 155   | 288    | (a)              | 62    | (a)   | (a)                    | 217   | (a)    |
| 1945 Jan.      | 145                | 234   | 379    | (a)              | 90    | (a)   | (a)                    | 324   | (a)    |
| Feb.           | 191                | 98    | 289    | (a)              | 101   | (a)   | (a)                    | 199   | (a)    |

(a) . Available only quarterly.

### TRANSPORT.

General. Under decisions of the War Railway Committee sleeping cars (on both interstate and intra-state trains) are to be restored, train services improved and priority regulations governing interstate travel are to be modified as from April 8, 1945. Persons hitherto ineligible for interstate travel may now be given a permit (Priority 5) to travel if accommodation is available after requirements of persons with Priorities 1 to 4 are met.

GOVERNMENT TRAMS AND 'BUSES. The number of passenger journeys, gross earnings and working expenses of Governments trams and 'buses in January, 1945 were each a record for the month of January, but the surplus on working (before meeting interest, depreciation, etc.) failed to reach that accrued in January of other war-time years.



In the seven months ended January passenger journeys were 21.7 million greater, gross earnings were £91,000 greater and working expenses were £60,000 greater in 1944-45 than in 1943-44. Although the operational result was £31,000 better this than last year, it was significantly less favourable than in July-Jan. of the years 1939-40 to 1942-43 inclusive.

N.S.W. GOVERNMENT TRAMS AND BUSES - SYDNEY AND NEWCASTLE.

| Year    | Month of January.  |                |                    |                | Seven months ended January. |                |                    |                |
|---------|--------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------|
|         | Passenger Journeys | Gross Earnings | Working Expenses x | Net Earnings ø | Passenger Journeys.         | Gross Earnings | Working Expenses x | Net Earnings ø |
|         | millions           | £000           | £000               | £000           | millions                    | £000           | £000               | £000           |
| 1939-40 | 32.7               | 421            | 312                | 109            | 219.2                       | 2,610          | 2,179              | 431            |
| 1941-42 | 42.3               | 480            | 387                | 93             | 281.0                       | 3,173          | 2,639              | 534            |
| 1942-43 | 42.9               | 482            | 405                | 77             | 287.2                       | 3,245          | 2,827              | 418            |
| 1943-44 | 44.3               | 493            | 419                | 74             | 299.6                       | 3,320          | 3,002              | 318            |
| 1944-45 | 47.7               | 510            | 441                | 69             | 321.3                       | 3,411          | 3,062              | 349            |

x Excluding Depreciation. ø Gross earnings less working expenses available to pay interest, depreciation, etc. on loan debt.

MOTOR VEHICLES. Manufacturing. The Commonwealth Government has accepted proposals of General Motors-Holden Ltd., for the post-war manufacture of motor vehicles in Australia. The proposal is to make a light cheap car adapted to Australian conditions involving a capital investment of some £2.5 m. and creating employment, directly and indirectly, for about 5,000 persons. The Company seeks no bounty, no special tariff protection or other concessions, but asks assurance that the Government will not, itself, undertake the same activities. Proposals are expected of a similar nature from other large overseas enterprises engaged in motor vehicle manufacture.

MOTOR REGISTRATIONS. First registrations during February, 1945, averaged only six cars and 38 lorries and vans per week. The number of new motor vehicles registered fell to the low weekly average of 27 in 1942-43 and increased to an average of 84 in Jan.-June, 1944, but in Sept.-Feb., 1944-45 the average declined again to 62 per week.

Re-registration of laid-up vehicles continues to account for the greater part of the increase in total registrations. During February, 1945, there was an increase of 723 (including 208 cars and 345 lorries and vans). The rate of increase has tended to slacken latterly - increases in successive months since September, 1944, were 1,248, 1,216, 1,459, 2,012, 809 and 723. A serious shortage of tyres reinforces petrol rationing as a deterrent to use of motor vehicles for other than essential purposes.

MOTOR VEHICLES REGISTERED IN N.S.W.

| Vehicles.        | At end of month. |               |             | Increase.  |            |            |            |
|------------------|------------------|---------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
|                  | Aug. 1939. †     | July, 1942. ø | Feb., 1945. | Nov. 1944. | Dec. 1944. | Jan. 1945. | Feb. 1945. |
|                  | 000              | 000           | 000         |            |            |            |            |
| Cars             | 216.6            | 170.0         | 184.8       | 657        | 864        | 276        | 208        |
| Lorries and Vans | 77.6             | 70.9          | 81.2        | 512        | 578        | 329        | 345        |
| All Vehicles     | 329.2            | 267.4         | 295.1       | 1,459      | 2,012      | 809        | 723        |

† Pre-war peak. ø Lowest war-time number of cars.